



Safety Spot

Community Risk Reduction

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



EVERYONE IS A PEDESTRIAN

Everyone has different preferences regarding transportation, but there's one that all road users share - everyone is a pedestrian. Unfortunately, pedestrians were one of the few road users to experience an increase in fatalities in the United States. Walking is good for your health, and it's good for the environment too. But before you head out on foot for a stroll, power walk, or errand, there are important safety tips the Colorado Springs Fire Department wants you to remember.

Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times. Safety is a shared responsibility. Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or in bad weather. Make sure you slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk. Always yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to allow other vehicles to see the crossing pedestrians to stop.

Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing that you can't see. Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street. Follow slower speed limits in school zones and in neighborhoods where there are children present. Be extra cautious when backing up - pedestrians can move into your path.

NATIONAL FACT:

On average, in the next 24 hours, 430 people will be treated in an emergency department for traffic-related pedestrian injuries.



Action Steps You Can Take:

- ☐ Be predictable. Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- ☐ Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.
- ☐ If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- ☐ Keep alert at all times; don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes (and ears) off the road.
- ☐ Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible. This is where drivers expect pedestrians. Look for cars in all directions - including those turning left or right.
- ☐ Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways, or backing up in parking lots.
- ☐ If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows you enough time to cross safely, and continue to watch for traffic as you cross.
- ☐ Never assume a driver sees you. Make eye contact with drivers as they approach you to make sure you are seen.
- ☐ Be visible at all times. Wear bright clothing during the day, and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.

**Source National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*